

By [Shea Johnson](#)[Print Page](#)

May 10, 2016 3:59PM

3rd District Supervisor James Ramos targets public safety for economy boon



3rd District Supervisor James Ramos is running for re-election. (James Quigg, Daily Press)

Posted by **Daily Press**
480 Views

VICTORVILLE — San Bernardino County 3rd District Supervisor James Ramos says public safety is unequivocally his top priority, believing attention paid there can trickle down to the local economy and cultivate a strong business climate.

"I believe that public safety is the first nucleus to create a safe environment," Ramos said Monday during a sit-down interview with the Daily Press broadcast on Facebook Live, "a safe environment where businesses will naturally locate into the areas, that increases those jobs."

The current chairman of the board, Ramos clarified that increased funding is part of the picture to bolster public safety, "but there's also the creativity that's created."

He pointed to the county's \$5.2 billion budget, where nearly \$500 million in discretionary funding has been identified and flipped to allow supervisors to hit a 14-percent rainy day fund amid a goal of 20 percent.

"With that, we've been able to look at pilot programs," he said.

One pilot initiative is a joint effort between the sheriff's department and County Fire for a rapid response helicopter, which Ramos called a particular asset to desert communities in Barstow and Trona where deputies are tasked to cover a huge swath of territory.

In terms of whether a continued focus on public safety would translate to more funding for increased staffing, Ramos said he'd rely on law enforcement officials for recommendations.

He's being challenged for the seat by one of his former field representatives, Donna Munoz, who currently serves as the general manager of the Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire Department.

Ramos added that he coveted responding to concerns about the county's homeless youth population, saying that schools here have identified more than 30,000 such students. With regard to Barstow, which is under his district's purview, he pointed to the recent opening of the Lenwood Road Grade Separation project as a county-advocated success story.

He said the county's Economic Development Agency partnered with the city when a massive-scale aluminum plant appeared to be a possibility and the county has also partnered with New Hope Village to address social issues, suggesting those types of alliances would continue under his second term.

To view Ramos' full interview, visit vvdailypress.com.

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160510/NEWS/160519975>

[Print Page](#)



ENVIRONMENT: Court upholds large desert-to-cities water transfer

[JIM STEINBERG](#)

2016-05-10 19:01:54



Cadiz Inc. won a decisive courtroom victory Tuesday for its plans to transfer ancient groundwater in a remote part of San Bernardino County's Mojave Desert to parts of Orange County and other locations.

California's Fourth Appellate District in Santa Ana upheld six lower court decisions dealing with various governmental approvals and environmental reviews of the controversial water project.

"The six Court of Appeal opinions issued today continue an uninterrupted validation of the Cadiz Water Project and its mission to conserve and deliver enough water for 400,000 people without harm to the

environment," said Cadiz CEO Scott Slater.

"The mountains of evidence, peer review, public agency and judicial scrutiny have all determined that the Project is technically and legally sound," he said.

The Cadiz project is being developed in a partnership with the Santa Margarita Water District and other Southern California water agencies.

"We were disappointed. We thought we had a good case," said Aruna Prabhala, a staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity in Oakland.

The Center challenged the project on two fronts: the California Environmental Quality Act study that was used in the approval process and a second case dealing with San Bernardino County's approval of the project, she said.

"We remain very concerned about the project and its impact on desert water resources" which will effect desert wildlife such as Bighorn Sheep and Desert tortoise, Prabhala said.

"This project is a boondoggle... not where California should be heading," she said.

Despite the legal victory, the Cadiz project does not have a green light, Prabhala said.

In October, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management rejected Cadiz's proposed use of an 1875 railway right-of-way to build a critical 43-mile pipeline from the Fenner Valley — about 40 miles northeast of Twentynine Palms — to the Colorado River Aqueduct, where it could be delivered to future customers.

Said Slater on Tuesday: "We will now turn to demonstrating through all legal means that our proposed use of the ARZC railroad route for the project's pipeline is within the scope of the existing right of way."

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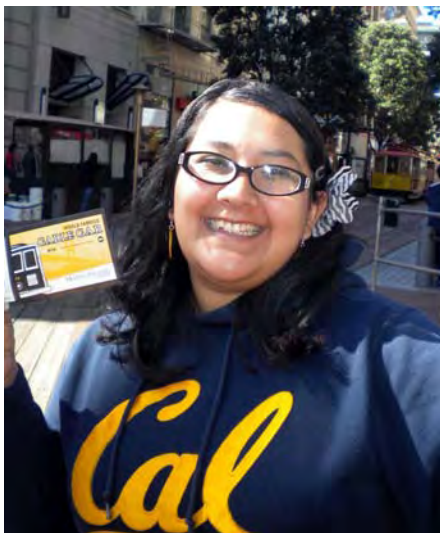
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SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Terror victim Godoy to receive posthumous degree

By [STEPHEN WALL](#)

2016-05-10 13:20:38



**UPDATE: Story adds comments from Evelyn Godoy, Aurora Godoy's sister in law.*

A California college will award a posthumous degree to one of its students who died in the San Bernardino terror attack.

Los Angeles Harbor College plans to honor the memory of Aurora Godoy by recognizing her as a member of its Class of 2016 during a board of trustees meeting Wednesday, May 11.

The 26-year-old San Jacinto resident was among 14 people killed in the Dec. 2 rampage. Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, carried out the attack on a gathering of his co-workers hours before they were killed in a shootout with police. She was an office assistant for San Bernardino County's environmental health division and the youngest of the 14 victims.

Otto Lee, president of Los Angeles Harbor College, will present Godoy's husband, James Godoy, will attend with their 2-year-old son, Alexander.

Aurora Godoy, who needed two classes to get her degree, serves as a role model for many of the college's students, Lee said.

"She was taking college courses to improve her skills while working full time and having all of her family obligations," Lee said. "In that sense, it inspires many of our students who are going through the same thing. To get so close and be a victim of this tragedy is so senseless."

Lee said it's the first time he's aware of that the college has awarded a posthumous degree.

James Godoy said his wife attended the college intermittently starting around 2008. She cut back her studies when she began working for San Bernardino County, first in the Registrar of Voters Office in 2013 and two years later in the Environmental Health Services Division.

She took online classes after the couple moved to San Jacinto, in Riverside County, in 2013. She planned to get an associate's degree and study political science at an Inland area university, Godoy said.

The couple were high school sweethearts who met at Carson High School in Los Angeles County.

James Godoy said he's grateful his wife will be honored and is glad their son will know his mom received a degree.

Aurora Godoy's sister-in-law used one of Aurora's favorite adjectives to describe how Aurora would feel.

"Super excited," Evelyn Godoy said, laughing. Super "was her big word. She used it all the time."

Evelyn Godoy said Aurora set a good example for her nephew.

“Trying to juggle a job and a family and going back to school is difficult, but she made it,” Evelyn Godoy said. “I think she would feel a sense of accomplishment.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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firefighting hero to terminated to vindicated



Former San Bernardino County Division Chief George Corley (Photo by Gail Fry)

Friday, May 06, 2016

By Gail Fry On February 15, 2012, after nine years of service to the County of San Bernardino and 41 years of firefighting, former San Bernardino County Fire Department Division Chief George Corley found his job terminated after a determination “there is an incompatibility of management style.” According to court records obtained by *The Alpenhorn News*, on June 11, 2012, Corley filed a complaint with the San Bernardino Superior Court alleging discrimination, unlawful employment practices based on age, wrongful tortuous termination in violation of public policy based on age, defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Corley, once honored as a hero for his actions in battling the Old Fire that ignited on October 21, 2003, was one of four fire chiefs deciding to take drastic action by setting backfires to save communities from Crestline on the west to Running Springs on the east. Fighting fire with fire, they set backfires stretching for six miles from the Cliffhanger Restaurant to Heaps Peak, creating a one-quarter mile buffer in between the main blaze and the communities. The decision was viewed as a risky bold action that saved thousands of homes and businesses. Despite the buffer zone, the Old Fire jumped State Highway 18 at Rim Forest burning 12 homes and Santa’s Village, then went on to engulf the community of Cedar Glen burning 336 homes. It was reported the Old Fire burned nearly 1,000 homes in total. According to news reports at the time, Crest Forest Fire Protection District Fire Chief Bill Bagnell, United States Forest Service Battalion Chief Randy Clauson, Division Chief Jim Ahearn and San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) Mountain Division Chief George Corley

were honored at two ceremonies, one held in Washington, D. C., where Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman gave the men the Department of Agriculture Award for Heroism. This was followed by a ceremony held at the San Moritz Lodge, where local residents hailed their heroic actions. In November 2007, Corley fought the Grass Valley Fire that burned 199 homes. He disagreed with a controversial United States Forest Service report claiming almost all of the homes burned due to urban-fire conditions, instead of wildfire conditions. Corley's lawsuit alleges in exchange for SBCFD Union President Bret Henry and Vice President Don Trapp's successful delivery of a vote for union concessions, where its members agreed to contribute toward their retirement, saving San Bernardino County millions of dollars, San Bernardino County Chief Executive Officer Greg Devereaux rewarded Henry and Trapp with promotions to division chief while bypassing experience requirements. Corley claimed a concerted effort to rid the department of seasoned division chiefs "at the top scale of their salary range" to save money, by giving them inferior ratings and transferring them to outlying areas. Corley recalled the embarrassment he suffered when he received unfavorable reviews, was transferred, and then terminated. On April 11, 2016, a jury of 12 persons agreed, finding San Bernardino County Fire Department had harmed and discriminated against Corley, due to his age, when it terminated him on February 15, 2012. Corley was awarded \$544,000 in economic loss for lost earnings, \$160,000 in future economic loss for lost earnings and nothing for physical pain/mental suffering, totaling \$704,000. On May 15, 2016, a hearing is scheduled to decide whether Corley will be awarded his attorney fees and costs totaling \$2,658,801.16. In response to questions on whether San Bernardino County will appeal, San Bernardino County Public Information Officer David Wert voiced, "There hasn't been a decision, just a recommendation from a jury, so there isn't anything to appeal yet."

San Bernardino sheriff faces suit for crash during high-speed chase



A family that was seriously injured after a suspect was shot from a helicopter during a chase in San Bernardino is now suing the sheriff's department. (KABC)

Embed

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 07:53PM

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) --

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is facing a lawsuit from members of a family who were seriously injured when a pursuit suspect's vehicle slammed into their SUV after he was shot from a sheriff's helicopter.

The [dramatic pursuit](#) on Sept. 18, 2015 involved a suspect driving at high speeds in the wrong direction of the 215 Freeway.

The suspect was initially wanted in connection with a home invasion in Fontana. He refused to pull over for deputies and led them on a chase through surface streets in Fontana and San Bernardino before heading the wrong way in the northbound lanes of the 215, at times reaching speeds up to 100 mph.

Deputies inside a sheriff's helicopter determined the suspect was a threat to public safety and fired at his vehicle. He jumped out of the moving car, which then crashed into an SUV driven by the Villegas family.

The suspect collapsed on the side of the road near the crash and died.

The Villegas family suffered severe injuries in the crash.

Maria Villegas broke six ribs and her hand.

Her son, Aldo Villegas, now 13, was born with no right kneecap and a breathing condition. In the crash, he broke his arms, injured his hip and now has no feeling in his left leg. He has been confined to a wheelchair and going through rehab since the crash.

The family and their attorney are blaming the sheriff's department for what they consider irresponsible behavior - shooting at a suspect from a helicopter over a crowded freeway.

"Never has there been a case that we've been involved with where a helicopter has shot someone from the sky, where you're dealing with a crowded freeway like this situation," said attorney Jim DeSimone.

DeSimone said the family expects to have medical costs in the millions of dollars.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department declined comment on the lawsuit.

But in September shortly after the crash, the department defended its actions, issuing a statement that read in part: "... all of our deputies and tactical flight officers qualify with the same weapons that they carry in the aircraft through and within department qualifications. Additionally, they train from the air every 90 days at a minimum. This training is specific to deploying weaponry from the aircraft."

DeSimone said the policy itself is irrelevant.

"Whether or not the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department has such a policy is immaterial," DeSimone said. "They still need to follow basic police practices, and not create more danger than they're trying to solve."

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You Might Also Like



San Bernardino County Considers Ban On Raves



A rave. (Photo by Wikimedia Commons)

Raves, which a very reputable source called [Urban Dictionary](#) defines as "any gathering of people centered around listening to and dancing to electronic music, as played by a set of live DJs," may soon be no longer welcome in San Bernardino County.

San Bernardino's San Miguel Amphitheater, which is the [largest](#) outdoor music venue in the U.S., houses two massively popular EDM shows. The county-owned venue has hosted the popular Beyond Wonderland and Nocturnal Wonderland raves since 2013. And the Wonderland events, which are put on by Live Nation-subsidiary Insomniac Events are no backyard shindigs—attendance at September's Nocturnal Wonderland event hit nearly 85,000, which, for context, is roughly three times the undergraduate population of UCLA.

San Bernardino County will vote on banning rave-type events at county facilities at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

The dance-heavy events, which [NPR](#) once declared to be "America's last great outlaw musical subculture...created by kids, for kids, designed to be impenetrable to adults," have been increasingly under fire in recent years, especially after a spate of deaths. The [L.A. Times](#) reports that there have now been at least 21 confirmed drug-related deaths among people who went to raves nationwide that were put on by Los Angeles-area companies since 2006.

According to the Times, nearly 250 people were arrested at Beyond Wonderland in March, and an additional 20 people were taken to area hospitals during the course of the two-day event. Everyone ended up being okay, but as of March 2016, at least four San Bernardino rave attendees have died of drug-related causes.

"We gave it a shot. It's time for these events not to be at this county facility anymore," Supervisor Janice Rutherford told the [San Bernardino Sun](#). Rutherford is leading the anti-rave effort.

To slightly complicate matters, banning raves at San Miguel would require the county to break their contract with LiveNation, but that might be easier than it sounds. County spokesman David Wert tells LAist that when the county signed the contract several years ago, they specifically included a clause that allowed EDM events at the county's amphitheater—but part of that clause also gave the county the option of rescinding permission if there were problems with the events. Three cheers for the county of San Bernardino's prescient lawyer who clearly brought his A-game to what we can only presume was an otherwise boring contract deal.

Backing from a [billion dollar company](#) and contracts with counties were once all but unthinkable in the OG rave scene.

As your parents can tell you, raves used to be much cooler. In the glory days, they were underground events held in sketchy warehouses with word spread via xeroxed flyers and locations announced on the day of, lest police interfere. As Tammy L. Anderson explained in a 2009 [journal article](#) in *Sociological Forum*, a number of factors caused the rave scene to flounder from its high point in the mid to late '90s, to its "diminished and fragmented" current state, including the effects of commercialization, a loss of "cultural otherness" and a generational schism. Kinko's (a place where people once made photocopies) is long gone, Hot Topic has a [rave section](#) for sale in a mall near you and the aforementioned Wonderland events both offer VIP sections with bottle service. Though one could also argue that the original rave scene officially died the day Anderson wrote about it in Sociological Forum.

But despite their assimilation into mainstream culture, raves remain controversial, particularly amongst the neighbors. [San Bernardino Sun](#)

Dozens, if not hundreds, of San Bernardino residents have complained to county supervisors about noise, drug use, heavy traffic and scantily clad, loitering concertgoers since the dance shows began in 2013. "One member of our board of supervisors believes that that threshold has been met," Wert told LAist, referring to the LiveNation contract's if-there-are-problems clause.

“A friend of mine was approached on her property by rave-goers asking to use her restroom... They're all over the place. And you would not believe how they dress. It's indecent exposure.” Karan Slobom, a 44-year San Bernardino told the Sun.

Wert says there would be a number of economic impacts if the board does end up voting to terminate the contract. He explained that the actual amount of money that the county government receives in exchange for leasing the venue is relatively nominal, but there could be a greater impact to the county parks system since a lot of the concert-goers camp, as well as a broader impact to local businesses and restaurants if the events are relocated elsewhere.

L.A.'s county board of supervisors considered—and declined—their own ban on raves earlier this year, ultimately deciding to move forward on an ordinance that would allow raves to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

San Bernardino will consider the ban on May 24. In the meantime, we wish everyone a day of [Peace Love Unity \[and\] Respect](#).

Contact the [author](#) of this article or email tips@laist.com with further questions, comments or tips.

Big Bear Alpine Zoo Invites You To Celebrate Bear Awareness Day May 21

Bear Awareness Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo. It's a great day to learn about the Black Bears and Grizzly Bears at the zoo. (Photo by Wikimedia Commons)

By Michael P. Neufeld

Big Bear Lake, CA – From Smokey to Yogi to Teddy, few animals are as beloved as America's bears. But few animals are as misunderstood. And that's where Zuni, Huckleberry, Hollybeary, Pooh, Tutu, Ayla and Harley — the Black and Grizzly Bears at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo — come into play on Saturday, May 21, the final day of Bear Awareness Week.

Zoo keepers will be highlighting the zoo's four Black Bears and three Grizzlies with hourly enrichment presentations from noon until 3 p.m.

BEAR AWARENESS DAY

During Bear Awareness Day the zoo's Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) and Grizzly Bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) will be in the spotlight as Big Bear Alpine Zoo joins other zoos and animal sanctuaries around the world in celebrating the conclusion of Bear Awareness Week.

In addition to the bear-centric keeper talks, there will be a host of educational activities, games, and crafts for kids of all ages from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADMISSION

There is no additional fee to participate in Bear Awareness Day. Simply pay the general admission price and enjoy your day at the zoo and learn more about "da bears."

Children 2 and under are free. Youngsters 3-10 are \$9 and adults (11 and older) are admitted for \$12. Seniors and military personnel are \$9 each.

The zoo accepts VISA and MasterCard.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Big Bear Alpine Zoo is located at 43285 Goldmine Drive in Big Bear Lake. The zoo will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information on Bear Awareness Week call The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo at (909) 878-4200 or (909) 584-1299.

When the Big Bear Alpine Zoo moves to its new location the bear enclosure will resemble this artist's rendering. On May

24 county supervisors are expected to award a construction contract. (Contributed Photo)

(23)

Homebuyers Resource Fair offered on June 4

From Staff and Wire Reports

The High Desert Association of Realtors (HDAR) invites the community to attend a Homebuyers Resource Fair at the High Desert Event Center (San Bernardino County Fairgrounds) on Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event comes after the HDAR was awarded a \$75,000 grant to offer local qualified first-time homebuyers up to \$2,000 in closing cost assistance from the California Association of Realtors Housing Affordability Fund. This grant resulted from a successful partnership with Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services Inc. (NPHS), a non-profit community-based organization that provides homeownership opportunities by helping families succeed through the home buying process.

You will learn about the value and benefits of homeownership, the tremendous opportunities for affordable housing in the High Desert region, how to build a path to homeownership and receive valuable information from other housing resource vendors at the event including local municipalities. Information on closing cost assistance for first time homebuyers will be available at the event. Parking and entry to the event are free. It will take place in the Alaska USA building at the High Desert Event Center, 14800 7th Street, Victorville CA 92395.

Diane Smith, the CEO of the High Desert Association of Realtors, credits the grant award to the successful partnership with NPHS that was forged through First District Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood.

"The grant will serve up to 37 first-time homebuyers," Smith stated, "and it would not have happened without Supervisor Lovingood's help and the partnership with NPHS."

Supervisor Lovingood added, "the High Desert Association of Realtors does excellent work for the First District and this grant underscores the great opportunities that families have to purchase their first home. Homeownership is the cornerstone to fine communities."

For event information, contact the Association of Realtors by calling 760-244-8841.

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

Rancho Cucamonga inks deal to help build affordable senior housing

Development isn't expected to begin until 2018 and it is likely one of the last the city will make

By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> City leaders have paved the way for the development of a 140-unit senior affordable housing near Base Line Road, just west of Day Creek Boulevard.

Although the development is at least two years away from construction, the City Council last week unanimously agreed to enter into a [loan agreement](#) with Day Creek Senior Housing Partner Mgp, LLC.

When the building permits and financing for the \$37 million housing project are completed in 2018, it will mark one of the last agreements the city will enter into for new affordable housing.

Linda Daniels, Rancho Cucamonga assistant city manager, said there is a proposal the city is pursuing with another nonprofit of an existing development that would add units.

“As far as a new construction ... this would probably be it,” Daniels said, adding there is no other undeveloped property available.

“Our region is facing a housing crisis, as far as housing affordability,” Mayor Dennis Michaels said. “That’s one of the tragedies of losing the redevelopment agency. It was able to provide these tools.”

The Legislature killed redevelopment agencies statewide in the height of the Great Recession, redirecting funds to other agencies.

The rental rate for one- and two-bedroom units would range from \$350 to \$750 a month. That compares to local at-market rates of \$1,350 for a one-bedroom unit and \$1,700 for a two-bedroom unit, Daniels said.

Rancho Cucamonga entered into the loan in its capacity as the Housing Successor agency to the now-defunct Rancho Cucamonga Redevelopment Agency, she said.

In September 2014, the successor agency sold a 14-acre property on the northwest corner of Base Line Road and Day Creek Boulevard to a developer. The transaction included the permits for a commercial shopping center on 10 acres of the 14 acres, and the remaining parcel could be allocated to develop affordable senior housing.

The developer was given a year to determine if it wanted to pursue the latter option of building senior housing. Daniels said the developer last year conveyed the property to the housing successor at no cost. City officials said the shopping center is still in the planning process.

As part of the agreement, the city will contribute the land and \$4.2 million in remaining housing bond proceeds that were sold in 2007. The deal also outlines the roles of the developer to obtain the additional

funding needed for the \$37 million project, Daniels said.

The managing partner for the project will be National Community Renaissance, also known as National CORE, which manages several other affordable senior housing units in the city.

“We picked a good partner to go into senior housing with,” said Councilman Sam Spagnolo.

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URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/social-affairs/20160510/rancho-cucamonga-inks-deal-to-help-build-affordable-senior-housing>

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino mulls marijuana regulation, ending dispensary ban

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

SAN BERNARDINO >> The city's existing ban on medical marijuana dispensaries is too expensive and conflicts with voters' decision to allow access to medical marijuana, said the majority of those addressing a possible change in the city's marijuana policy Tuesday.

The discussion by the city's legislative review committee, which consists of three of the seven City Council members, was intended to gather information on the difficulties the city has had enforcing its ban and on the possibility of replacing it with a regulatory framework.

That discussion will continue Monday, when the full council is set to vote on whether to poll residents for their opinions about marijuana. Then, the legislative review committee will discuss marijuana again June 14.

For the elected officials on the committee, though, a policy change seems to be increasingly inevitable.

"I'm trying to find a reason why we should continue with our ban, and it just doesn't make sense, anywhere," said Councilman Benito Barrios. "Are we as a council now willing to move forward and say: Are we going to regulate or not?"

That question wasn't answered Tuesday, but Councilman Henry Nickel said the city's current attempts to close dispensaries aren't working.

"All you're doing is providing, at best, a minor inconvenience that they have to relocate. If you aren't ensuring that there are truly consequences to violating the prohibition, well then, what are we doing?" he asked. "Clearly, a \$1,000-a-day fine isn't cutting it. If we're told we don't have any other tools at our disposal, then it does become clear, unless I'm wrong, that prohibition doesn't work."

Nickel said he wanted more specifics on the cost of prohibition and the costs of regulation.

Police Lt. Rich Lawhead estimated the recent [closure of a dispensary on Kendall Drive](#) cost \$100,000 in personnel, which he said was needed to gather evidence for a criminal case. And evidence suggested the dispensary made \$20,000 to \$25,000 per day, he said Tuesday.

The potential tax revenue from that kind of business could make a significant difference in the bankrupt city, several speakers suggested.

In the case of the Kendall Drive dispensary — like all pot shop shutdowns — the city could not recoup the personnel cost and did not seize the plants, said Deputy City Attorney Jason Ewert.

Residents often complain about smells, noise and other problems from dispensaries, Code Enforcement

Officer Michelle Neville told the committee, and several residents said the dispensaries are a nuisance.

There's no way to provide enough "medical" marijuana, said resident Carolyn Conley, intimating that many of those purporting to use it as medicine were actually using it recreationally.

"It's obvious from the dollar amount these places are bringing in," Connelly said. "If we've got that much sickness going on in our society, our society is crumbling."

Marijuana advocate Damian Martin said regulation could pay for itself.

"It's simple: You create a framework for control, and you make the regulated industry pay for the cost to get rid of the black market," Martin said. "The regulated industry will gladly pay the money, because the black market becomes their competitor, once you set it up like that."

Former City Attorney James F. Penman said the city had successfully shuttered all the dispensaries during his tenure and kept most of them closed, but that circumstances were changing by the time he was recalled in 2013 — while he was preparing to recommend a policy change.

"After the November 2013 city elections, the recommendation was going to be to permit three to five licensed medical marijuana clinics," Penman said Tuesday. "They would be predominantly in nonretail commercial areas, possibly in industrial areas. ... We were going to charge an application fee of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per applicant, and we estimated there would be 40 applicants."

"You can do the math."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160510/san-bernardino-mulls-marijuana-regulation-ending-dispensary-ban>

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SB behind curve on medical pot

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Prompted by the prospect of statewide marijuana legalization in November, San Bernardino officials have revived discussions about the city's pot policies. While the drug is officially prohibited, there are dozens of medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the city.

Rather than continuing a policy that does nothing to enhance public safety and actually misallocates the city's finite resources, San Bernardino should think carefully about gaining some control over the proliferation of dispensaries through sensible regulations.

This isn't the first time the city has discussed changes to its medical marijuana policies.

Over the summer of 2014, City Attorney Gary Saenz reported his intent to submit a plan "which essentially acknowledges the futility and high cost of attempting to completely eradicate marijuana dispensaries" and which would "move the distribution of medical marijuana from the black market to the regulated market."

When the time came for the City Council to discuss marijuana policy, the matter was inexplicably removed from the council agenda, and the city has pursued prohibition ever since.

Nothing has changed since then. As seen in cities throughout the Inland Empire, simply prohibiting something for which there is considerable demand doesn't make it go away. The market is pushed underground and off the books, inviting a host of problems that could be avoided with a legal, regulated, operational framework.

"[Dispensaries] need to be brought under control, be it through prohibition or some other mechanism," Councilman Henry Nickel told his colleagues last week. "There are cities that are doing this effectively."

Indeed, the experiences with medical marijuana of Inland cities like Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs, plus the dozens of states across the country that have adopted legalization, demonstrate that regulation can bring some order. Palm Springs, for example, has seen sharp declines in the number of unregulated dispensaries since approving a limited number of regulated outlets.

Of course, there's also the added benefit of dispensaries generating tax revenue for local governments.

Whether one approves of marijuana for medicinal or recreational use, the reality is that attitudes are changing, and relying on prohibition alone doesn't yield much practical benefit to communities. With voters deciding on statewide legalization in less than six months, local governments, at the very least, need to have honest discussions about their policies.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Cal State San Bernardino survey shows distrust for president, administration

By Mark Muckenfuss, The Press-Enterprise

Tuesday, May 10, 2016



The second of a two-part campus survey at Cal State San Bernardino showed widespread distrust of university President Tomas Morales and his administration by faculty and staff members.

Morales listened to questions about the report at an afternoon faculty senate meeting where it was presented Tuesday. The faculty senate requested the survey last fall. The first half, which showed low levels of morale among staff and faculty, was released in March.

After the meeting, Morales said he is looking carefully at the survey results.

“The entire report is concerning,” Morales said.

The survey found that while faculty and staff seem fairly comfortable with the leadership of their departments and colleges, they don’t trust top administrators at the university. Only 24 percent of respondents reported feeling there was a campus-wide atmosphere of trust.

The report also said one in four respondents had been subjected to bullying. Some comments indicated Morales himself had been the one doing the bullying. One commenter suggested the president needed help with anger management.

Morales admitted he has probably raised his voice on occasion.

“Like any human being, you lose patience,” he said. “I have high expectations of myself and of my colleagues.”

But, he added, “I treat people with respect. I treat them the way I would want to be treated.”

The report made a series of recommendations on how to improve the campus situation.

“I’m looking closely at the recommendations,” Morales said. As to which ones might be implemented, he said, “I think all of them.”

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160510/cal-state-san-bernardino-survey-shows-distrust-for-president-administration>

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Crafton Hills College wants your help in hunt for a new president

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Tuesday, May 10, 2016



YUCAIPA >> Crafton Hills College is looking to replace President Cheryl Marshall, and they want the public's help.

[Marshall was hired as the president of the North Orange County Community College District](#) in February, and Crafton Hills hopes to have her replacement in place before the start of the new school year on July 1. Marshall has been [president of Crafton Hills since 2012](#).

On May 19, the college will hold an open forum with the (not yet selected) final candidates in the job hunt. The candidates will be asked questions submitted in advance.

Questions should be submitted online at <http://depts.craftonhills.edu/research/presidentialsearch/forum.htm> by Sunday, May 15. Questions asked of the candidates will include questions submitted by the public.

The Crafton Hills College Presidential Open Forums is scheduled to take place May 19, at the Crafton Hills College Learning Resource Center in room LRC 231 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will also be a meet and greet with the candidates from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in room LRC 226.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160510/crafton-hills-college-wants-your-help-in-hunt-for-a-new-president>

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What to tell children about 'Isis Phillips'

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Tuesday, May 10, 2016



A school yearbook is meant to mark a moment in time. The 2016 yearbook at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga does this all too well.

The controversy about a Muslim girl being [identified by the name "Isis" in a photo caption](#) says something about this period of national anxiety about terrorism and the right and wrong responses to it.

That makes it a teachable moment for parents and educators.

Before getting into the possible lessons, note that questions remain about what actually happened at Los Osos High. What is known is that the photo of Bayan Zehlif, whose Twitter account says she is Palestinian and who wears a hijab, is labeled "Isis Phillips" in 287 copies of the yearbook distributed to seniors last week. What isn't proven is if this was a yearbook staffer's idea of a joke, or if it was an honest mistake in which somebody confused Zehlif with a former Los Osos student whose name actually is Isis Phillips.

Apologies have rolled in. Muslim leaders have demanded an investigation. Chaffey school district officials have said an investigation is under way.

Zehlif said the school told her the mistake was a "typo." Many people reading that claim — the name of a terrorist organization was inadvertently placed under a Muslim student's picture — may have the reaction Zehlif expressed on Facebook: "Let's be real."

Still, one student who worked on the yearbook said he thought Zehlif reacted "out of proportion" when she wrote on Facebook that she is "extremely saddened, disgusted, hurt and embarrassed" by the incident. Trevor Santellan told the New York Daily News that Zehlif is "being racist against herself" by taking the error the wrong way.

The incident is a shame in at least two ways.

One, it really must be upsetting to Bayan Zehlif and the real Isis Phillips. The Council on American-Islamic Relations' Los Angeles executive director is right to say, "No student should have to face the humiliation of being associated with a group as reprehensible as ISIS."

Two, if a yearbook staffer really did this intentionally, it reflects a broader problem: people seeing a Muslim and making the mental leap to "ISIS."

Jokes about stereotyping are, of course, protected by freedom of speech. But they can still be juvenile, lame and hurtful. Stereotyping itself is illogical, unproductive and sometimes dangerous.

That's what should be taught to young people. If the Rancho Cucamonga problem was more than a careless mistake, it's inexcusable in a place as socially inclusive as a public school is supposed to be.

Too bad school kids aren't the only people who need lessons in the ills of stereotyping.

But we see it in weird news reports like [the one from last week](#) in which an American Airlines flight was delayed more than two hours and an Ivy League professor was interrogated by security after a fellow passenger saw him writing a math formula and mistook it for terrorist code.

And we see it from politicians who think the most direct way to fend off terrorist attacks in the United States would be to bar Muslim immigrants from the country.

There are lessons for everybody in the Los Osos High controversy.

The yearbook is called "Our Story." That's more fitting than anybody should have hoped.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160510/what-to-tell-children-about-isis-phillips>

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EDITORIAL: Budget meetings go into overtime

2016-05-09 16:41:56

The Riverside City Council has conducted hearings the past several weeks regarding proposed budget cuts affecting all city departments. Initially planned for three meetings, the council will hold a fourth session today to hear from the finance, general services and human resources departments.

Thus far, these meetings have proven exceedingly difficult. With projected deficits of \$10 million to \$12 million the next two fiscal years, all departments have been instructed to reduce their budgets by 4 percent across the board.

The departments up for discussion today will largely achieve savings through less tangible adjustments, including deferring recruitment of new employees, keeping vacant positions unfilled and using lower compensation estimates for new hires.

For many departments, particularly those with close interactions with the public, including those overseeing parks, museums and public works, the cuts mean the public will notice tangible cutbacks in services. Reducing funds for things like fireworks displays, programs for students and seniors have certainly been challenging.

After all, it is far easier to promise new programs and additional spending than it is to walk back some of those promises. But given the city's structural deficit, reforms to how city government operates are in order.

"If we don't make cuts or we go forward with the same expenditures that we have now, then we're going to run out of reserves in three years," City Manager John Russo told the council last week. Should things come to that, Councilman Mike Soubirous told his colleagues, Riverside could find itself in the same insolvent position as was the city of San Bernardino in 2012.

In this context, it does seem difficult to expect the public to support pay raises for the council or the creation of a city prosecutor's office this June, particularly when the city is struggling to pay for what it has now.

Further, with the prospect of a tax hike looming over these budget discussions, it is critical that the council presses on with tough decision-making. To take from the experience of San Bernardino, we hope the city looks deeply into opportunities to contract with the private sector to deliver services.

Just as importantly, we hope the public continues to engage with the city, which residents can readily do through EngageRiverside.com, to make it clear what their priorities are. One thing Riverside cannot afford is a lack of civic participation and not being held accountable by the public, which city government ostensibly represents.

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Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

Child abuse tackled at forum for LA County Supervisor candidates in Pasadena

By Brenda Gazzar, Los Angeles Daily News

Wednesday, May 11, 2016



PASADENA >> Child abuse prevention and foster care took center stage Tuesday at a forum for candidates vying for outgoing Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's seat ahead of the June 7 presidential primary election.

Five of eight candidates running for the seat were asked a series of questions about improving the lives of children across the county, home to the largest child welfare and juvenile justice system in the nation. Fostering Media Connections, the publisher of The Chronicle of Social Change, hosted the wide-ranging forum at Pasadena City College.

Kathryn Barger, chief of staff to Antonovich, said she has seen first hand the importance of public-private partnerships in preventing maltreatment of children.

Her brother and his wife recently took in a foster child who came to them through a children's services agency rather than through the county, she said. The mother told the agency that she was homeless, in an abusive relationship and could no longer take care of her children.

"That is what we should be doing," Barger said. "That is private sector. That is working through faith-based organizations. The county cannot — and quite frankly I don't think they should — do this alone."

The child is able to see his siblings, is not afraid that the courts will not allow him to go home and is thriving at school, she said.

Elan Carr, a criminal gang prosecutor, stressed the importance of education to prevent child abuse. Parents, especially young ones, need to be educated on raising children and dealing with normal stresses, such as anger management. Carr said he has forced defendants to undergo anger management counseling under penalty of jail.

"We've got to start really getting serious with education," Carr said. "The only way really to fight crime and abusive homes is to provide nurturing education for all parties involved."

Children must also be taught that violence is not the answer so that they don't carry the practice into adulthood, he said.

Mitchell Englander, a Los Angeles city councilman, noted the county needs to adopt a public awareness campaign called "See something, say something." Abuse happens behind closed doors and people should

be encouraged to report friends, neighbors and loved ones to stop it, he said.

Englander also noted that he's dedicated his life to public-private partnerships and said parents need to be brought into programs that benefit children and stay engaged.

"Government can't do this alone," he said. "This is a partnership. It's a collaboration. That's where philanthropic dollars come in but we've got to be accountable as well and work together."

State Sen. Bob Huff talked about the importance of lowering social worker case loads in the county and preventing employee burnout to better protect vulnerable children. Social workers are dealing with clientele with very high needs and there should be better education, continuing education as well as evaluation and incorporation of best practices, he said.

But burnout can happen with even one child and "someone has to be monitoring and making sure they are doing their job," Huff added. "It's not just about reducing case loads or how we go about doing this. Are we getting the results we need? If not, we need to change the formula a little bit."

Entrepreneur Darrell Park, the only Democrat on stage, talked about the need to make county case workers more effective. He suggested that they could be shuttled around by sheriff's department patrol cars with sirens blaring at 85 miles an hour in order to make more appointments in a day. He also suggested that workers dictate their reports to employees who type "150 words a minute" to get reports done more quickly and accurately.

"That one simple thing didn't cost you a dollar in tax money and probably doubled the effectiveness of the case workers," he said.

Park noted that the county Board of Supervisors has an overall annual budget of nearly \$30 billion, which he said is enough to properly take care of every single child in the county.

A candidate must get a majority of votes to win a seat in June. Otherwise, the two candidates with the most votes will compete in a runoff in the Nov. 8 presidential election

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20160511/child-abuse-tackled-at-forum-for-la-county-supervisor-candidates-in-pasadena>

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LOCAL / L.A. Now

L.A. County may seek state's help on 'millionaires tax' for homelessness



L.A. County supervisors are looking toward a possible "millionaires tax" to fund anti-homelessness programs. Above, a man sleeps on a bridge over a downtown freeway. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By **Abby Sewell** · Contact Reporter

MAY 10, 2016, 7:20 PM

Los Angeles County officials are eyeing a new income tax on millionaires to help address the region's growing crisis of homelessness, but one of the county board's three liberal members broke ranks to at least temporarily halt the push.

County supervisors were slated to vote Tuesday to lobby for state legislation that would give counties the authority to collect a new tax on personal income over \$1 million to pay for housing programs and services to combat homelessness.

Supervisor Hilda Solis raised concerns about the methodology of a poll that gauged voters' support for the potential measure and the annual countywide count of homeless people.

After a lengthy debate, the supervisors postponed the question by a week.

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City and county officials have been mulling the idea of asking voters for a tax increase to pay for new housing and services intended to get people off the streets.

The most [recent count](#) by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found nearly 47,000 people on the streets and in shelters, a 5.7% increase from the year before.

County officials voted earlier this year to allocate \$150 million for housing programs and other initiatives to reduce homelessness, but say nearly \$500 million a year would be needed to make a significant dent in the problem, not including the cost of building new housing.

A [recent poll by the county](#) found that 76% of the likely voters polled were supportive of a millionaire's tax — enough to meet the two-thirds majority required to impose a new tax.

They were more receptive to the high-income tax than to other options presented, including increasing sales or property taxes or taxing marijuana sales to pay for homeless programs.

A similar "millionaires tax" passed by voters statewide in 2004, raises money for mental health services through a personal income tax surcharge of 1% on taxable income above \$1 million. The revenues — about \$1.4 billion statewide this year — are collected by the state and distributed to counties.

County officials estimate that another such tax could raise \$243 million a year for housing and services for the homeless in Los Angeles County.

But the county does not now have the authority to raise income taxes and would need a change in state law to do it.

Supervisors [Mark Ridley-Thomas](#) and [Sheila Kuehl](#) want the county to start pushing for a budget trailer bill that would grant the county the authority in time to place a measure on the ballot in November.

The deadline for the board to place initiatives on the November ballot is Aug. 9. The budget bill will be adopted by June 15 and signed by June 31, giving county officials time to decide whether to place a measure on the ballot.

The two Republicans on the board, [Michael D. Antonovich](#) and [Don Knabe](#), expressed skepticism about

pursuing a tax increase.

Join the conversation on Facebook >>

Solis, in a surprise move, joined them. She said she had not been provided with a detailed breakdown of demographics of the people polled and had not received a breakdown of the results for each supervisorial district until Monday night.

She also contested the findings of the homeless count, saying she thought it had underestimated the problem in her east-county district and was concerned that the area would get less funding from a potential tax measure as a result.

"As we move forward, I don't want the first district to be short-charged," she said.

Solis said afterward that she wanted the county to do its "due diligence"

"The missing demographic data from the polling is just one piece of the information we are requesting," she said. "We also need to gauge the political will of the governor and the Legislature. If L.A. County moves forward, it needs to be in an informed and concerted way."

Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas, along with county staff, pushed for a vote to move ahead with pursuing legislation that would at least potentially leave the door open for a November measure.

Ridley-Thomas argued that a delay would send a "message of equivocation."

"We've been discussing the issues of homelessness with intensity for the better part of this year," he said. "... A lot of eyes are on us and expecting us to do what we should do."

Advocates urged the board to push ahead with the tax initiative.

"We've never had this chance before, and I'm worried that we're not going to have it again if we don't seize it," Greg Spiegel, former top homelessness policy advisor to Los Angeles Mayor [Eric Garcetti](#), now with Inner City Law Center. "If we don't seize it, the problem is going to get worse."

Several proponents also pointed out that although overall homelessness had surged from last year, homelessness among veterans and families -- two groups that have been specifically targeted by county programs in recent months -- decreased.

"When you put resources in -- as you're about to, I hope -- we do see decreases," said Ruth Schwartz, executive director of Shelter Partnership. "You're responsible for the decrease in homeless families."

The supervisors took an initial vote in which the proposal to seek state approval was voted down. Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas voted in favor of the proposal, Antonovich and Knabe voted no and Solis abstained. But the supervisors then voted to reconsider and place it on the agenda for next week.

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ALSO

[Suspect in Clovis double-homicide allegedly told sister of victim: 'You're next'](#)

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UPDATE

7:20 p.m.: This article was updated with a breakdown of the supervisors' votes.

This article was first posted at 5:05 p.m.

This article is related to: Homelessness, Sheila Kuehl, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Michael Antonovich, Eric Garcetti, Don Knabe

The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/24J00F0>

ECONOMY

It's a Tough Job Market for the Young Without College Degrees

By PATRICIA COHEN MAY 10, 2016

For seniors graduating from the University of Michigan this month, employers have been lining up since the fall to offer interviews and boast of their companies' benefits. Recruiters would ask when their competitors were coming, said Geni Harclerode, the university's assistant director of employer development, and then they'd say: "Well, we want to come the week before."

"This has been one of our largest seasons of hiring," she said. "The job market has been very good."

The outlook for many high school graduates is more challenging, as Vynny Brown can attest. Now 20, he graduated two years ago from Waller High School in Texas, and has been working for nearly a year at Pappasito's Cantina in Houston, part of a chain of Tex-Mex restaurants. He earns \$7.25 an hour filling takeout orders or \$2.13 an hour plus tips as a server, which rarely adds up to more than the minimum, he said. He would like to apply to be a manager, but those jobs require some college experience.

"That is something I don't have," said Mr. Brown, who says he cannot

afford to go to college now. “It’s the biggest struggle I’ve had.”

Most young workers have the same problem as Mr. Brown. Only 10 percent of 17- to 24-year-olds have a college or advanced degree, according to a new study by the Economic Policy Institute, although many more of them will eventually graduate.

And for young high school graduates, the unemployment rate is disturbingly high: 17.8 percent. Add in those who are underemployed, either because they would like a full-time job but can only find part-time work, or they are so discouraged that they’ve given up actively searching, and the share jumps to more than 33 percent.

Younger workers have always had a tougher time finding a job than their older, more experienced counterparts. Even so, the economic recovery has progressed more slowly for young high school graduates than for those coming out of college.

“It’s improved since the recession, but it’s still pretty poor,” said Elise Gould, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, who noted the average hourly wage for high school graduates had declined since 2000 despite increases in the minimum wage in some places.

Ms. Gould is part of a growing chorus of economists, employers and educators who argue more effort needs to be put into improving job prospects for people without college degrees.

“Without question we have failed to pay attention to and invest in opportunities for young people who are not on a path to go to four years of college,” said Chauncy Lennon, the head of work force initiatives at JPMorgan Chase, which has started a \$75 million program to design and deliver career-focused education in high schools and community colleges.

For high school students, a four-year college education is frequently held

out as the only viable option, precisely because job opportunities and wages are so much better upon graduation. But many who sign up never finish. “The most common reason they fail to complete is that they need to start earning a living to support their families,” Mr. Lennon said.

Vocational, career and technical high schools have often been stigmatized as a last resort for underachievers. At the same time, educators and administrators in some places have been criticized for steering minority students toward them in lieu of academic programs.

The initiative sponsored by Chase is aimed at repairing that reputation. Although some traditional middle-skills opportunities for construction and clerical workers are shrinking, Mr. Lennon said, others are growing. In health care, for instance, radiology and phlebotomy technicians are needed; in advanced manufacturing and aviation, mechanical maintenance workers are in demand.

He added that vocational schools should no longer be thought of as dead ends, since they can serve as steppingstones to associate degrees at community colleges or to enrollment at four-year institutions.

Issac Cordoso, who is graduating from Medford Vocational Technical High School in Massachusetts in June, already has a job lined up as an electrical apprentice, earning \$12 an hour.

“I went into vocational school with my heart set on the automotive program, but I fell in love with electrical and saw a bigger future for myself,” Mr. Cordoso, 17, said.

He is also applying for a coveted spot as an apprentice with the local electrical union, where the starting pay is \$18.25 an hour. As an apprentice, he could work while training to become a journeyman, a position with an hourly wage of \$28. Most of Mr. Cordoso’s classmates also have jobs waiting for them, he said.

Stefanie A. DeLuca, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins University, is the co-author of a study of low-income African-American millennials in Baltimore titled, "Coming of Age in the Other America." She agrees there is a pressing need for more targeted, streamlined vocational programs in high schools and at community colleges.

"They're looking for jobs," Dr. DeLuca said of the youths she interviewed. "They want a quick launch."

Still, low wages combined with rising housing costs make it tough to get ahead. "They're juggling a job at Potbelly and a security job and working 60 hours a week and it's still not enough," she said.

Despite the improving job market, what particularly troubled Martha Ross, a researcher at the Brookings Institution in Washington, were the 3.2 million disadvantaged youths between 16 and 24 who were not in school and did not have a job.

"The size of that population was bigger than I expected," said Ms. Ross, who is the co-author of a paper on youth employment across the country. Although metropolitan areas can vary widely, the report found, in some communities, young blacks and Latinos are three to five times more likely than whites to fall into this group.

If things are tough for high school graduates, for those without a high school diploma, the job hunt can be grim. Adam McKinley, 18, said he dropped out of his high school in Baltimore last year because he needed to work full time. He worked briefly at Dunkin' Donuts and has searched for jobs at coffee bars and restaurants, hotels and warehouses. Because many of the applications were online, Mr. McKinley said he did not know why he never heard back.

"It's extremely frustrating," he said. "You have no idea what's going on."



THEATER SHOOTING: Victims cite lack of guards, silent alarms

By [SADIE GURMAN](#)

2016-05-10 11:36:28



CENTENNIAL, Colo. — A UC Riverside grad who killed 12 people in a Colorado movie theater was so determined that no security measures could have stopped him, an attorney for the cinema chain said Tuesday during the start of a civil trial over whether the company should have foreseen the 2012 attack.

In opening statements in the civil trial brought by survivors of the attack and their families, attorney Marc Bern said the suburban Denver movie theater should have been better prepared for the possibility of violence during the packed midnight premiere of a Batman film, where at least 1,000 people were expected. While other theaters across the country were bolstering security for the summer blockbuster, Century 16 in Aurora lacked armed guards, closed-circuit television cameras that could

have spotted trouble and a silent alarm that would have sounded when James Holmes slipped through an emergency exit door and opened fire, Bern told jurors.

“Cinemark failed to be prepared in a post-9/11 world,” said Bern, who is representing 27 victims. A 28th survivor who is representing herself argued the shooting left her emotionally damaged, even though she was not in the auditorium where it took place but in a theater down the hall.

The six jurors will have to decide whether Cinemark, the country’s third-largest theater chain, should be held liable for what Taylor described as the first mass shooting at a theater in “the history of American cinema.”

Mass shootings are still so rare that theater management could not have anticipated one at a movie theater with no history of serious violence, Cinemark attorney Kevin Taylor said.

Taylor acknowledged there were no armed guards on hand for the July 20, 2012, premiere of “The Dark Knight Rises” but argued that management had deemed them unnecessary in Aurora, which was then considered among Forbes’ safest cities in the country. Guards were stationed at other Cinemark theaters. The company’s procedures were “in line with industry standard and custom,” he said.

The door Holmes’ propped open and entered through was not alarmed because it was not an emergency exit but rather a door designed to allow people to come and go, Taylor said.

Holmes was sentenced to life in prison last year after jurors failed to unanimously agree he deserved the death penalty.

Both sides in the civil trial pointed to Holmes’ months of planning to support their case. Bern said if the theater had closed-circuit television cameras or roving patrols outside, employees might have known that Holmes scoped out the theater four times before the attack, snapping pictures. Holmes’ notebook with detailed diagrams of auditoriums showed he picked the theater for its lax security, Bern said.

Taylor showed photos of Holmes’ weaponry, high-grade body armor and ammunition as proof that he was a “mad genius” who would not be deterred.

Holmes stood before the crowd of more than 400, threw gas canisters and opened fire with a shotgun, assault rifle and semi-automatic pistol.

“He was hell-bent on committing as much murder as he could,” Taylor said. “This was a completely unpredictable and unstoppable event.”

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